



*The MPA Management Capacity Building Training program's purpose is to provide a knowledge-base and skill sets for developing local and regional capacity and expertise in designation, implementation and management of networks of marine protected areas (MPAs).*

## MPA Management Capacity Building Training Overview



# MPA

MANAGEMENT  
CAPACITY BUILDING

TRAINING



Worldwide, marine protected areas (MPAs) are recognized by nations as a valuable science-based resource management tool supporting ecosystem-based conservation. The Fifth World Parks Congress meeting in Durban, South Africa, called upon the international community to establish by 2012 a global system of **effectively managed, representative networks** of marine and coastal protected areas. The Congress recommended these MPAs be extensive and include strictly protected areas that amount to at least 20-30% of each habitat.

Additionally, the U.S. Ocean Commission's report *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (September 2004), Chapter 29: Advancing International Ocean Science and Policy recommends that "the United States should increase its efforts to enhance long-term ocean science and **management capacity** in other nations through grants, education and **training**, technical assistance, and sharing best practices, management techniques, and lessons learned" (Recommendation 29-8).

In order for MPAs to be effective in the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems and their resources, it is necessary to build support for marine protected areas through site-based planning. Many MPA managers and policy makers, including local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders, have insufficient access to new knowledge, information, and guidelines coming out of science, traditional knowledge, and field experience, to effectively manage MPAs. In the past there has been little opportunity to share what seasoned resource managers have learned from their own experience with other managers and staff. The management capacity training of MPA staff provides a mechanism to enable resource managers to come together, directly experience and learn from one another and share lessons learned, while setting new standards for the management of MPAs globally.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) has played a leadership role for nearly thirty years in managing MPA's in coastal and offshore areas of the continental United States, Great Lakes and Pacific Islands. The extensive experience of the NMSP stems from managing a system of MPAs in a wide variety of biogeographic, cultural and historic settings. The NMSP has also been engaged in long-standing partnerships within the NOAA family, including the International Program Office, Coastal Services Center and the MPA Center. This collective expertise positions the NMSP to take a leading role in sharing its resources, expertise and lessons learned with recently designated marine protected areas, both nationally and internationally, to help build capacity for effective management.

The *MPA Management Capacity Building Training* program identifies priority regions for training and program development through the following steps:

### An International Program of the NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

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- *Working with local and regional partners, a need and interest for MPA management capacity building is identified;*
- *A legal and management framework is in place, basic infrastructure needs are met, and the MPA authority is willing to support skill and knowledge-based development for the purpose of moving towards an effectively managed network of MPAs;*
- *A site-specific management capacity training needs assessment is conducted;*
- *The structure of the training program and design of curriculum is specifically tailored to regional needs;*
- *Trainers are selected and comprised of local, regional, and then international expertise in MPA management;*
- *On-going support is provided until local and regional MPA management capacity is secured;*
- *Milestones and performance indicators are built into the program to ensure MPA sites are moving towards more effective management and conservation goals are met;*
- *Communication and coordination plans are designed and implemented amongst the participating MPAs to provide support for scaling up from individual sites to networks of MPAs.*

## Current Projects

### SOUTH CHINA SEA REGIONAL MPA NETWORK TRAINING

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), International Program Office (IPO), and Coastal Services Center (CSC) partnered with IUCN-Vietnam, the Vietnam Ministry of Fisheries, Conservation International, WWF, Danida and the U.S. Embassy to provide management capacity training in support of developing a marine protected area (MPA) network in the South China Sea region.

In December 2005, thirty-five marine protected area practitioners from China, Vietnam and Cambodia gathered in Nha Trang, Vietnam for the first *MPA Management Capacity Building* pilot project. The South China Sea region was selected from nine regional candidate sites for the first pilot project due to the strong existing partnership between NOAA, IUCN and the Ministry of Fisheries. Nha Trang was selected as the host city as it is the site of the first fully implemented MPA in a network of fifteen MPAs in Vietnam.

An international team of 11 trainers from Australia, Philippines, Vietnam and the United States conducted 14 days of management capacity training for the 35 participants; and four additional days of mentorship training for eight representatives that were selected by their respective MPAs in China, Vietnam and Cambodia for showing exceptional leadership potential. National Marine Sanctuary staff tailored the curriculum to the specific needs of the region, covering eight topical areas during the two weeks of training including subjects such as enforcement, community-based management and management planning. The training is designed to include a year-long follow-up program whereby support will be provided by the partnership to ensure the implementation of lessons learned and advanced training needs are met.

### EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC SEASCAPE (ETPS) TRAINING

The second training will take place in the Eastern Tropical Pacific in Spring 2006. The MPA Management Capacity Training will be offered to MPA managers and staff from Costa Rica's Cocos Islands, Panama's Coiba Island, Colombia's Gorgona and Malpelo Islands, and Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. The islands and waters of the Eastern Tropical Pacific are critical components of the whole seascape. Whereas Galapagos and Cocos are currently recognized as World Heritage sites, Coiba, Malpelo and Gorgona are still lacking this designation. The ETPS has the potential to become the first "cluster" World Heritage Site. However, on their own, there is still some question as to whether each of the ETPS components not yet designated would fulfill the necessary criteria for designation. For this reason, the World Heritage Centre is working closely with the respective authorities and stakeholders to coordinate a regional approach for World Heritage designation, with a particular focus on serial and/or transboundary designation strategy.

The NMSP has formed a partnership with Conservation International and UNESCO to provide training to build management capacity for the Eastern Tropical Pacific seascape to qualify for nomination as the first serial marine World Heritage site.

The *MPA Management Capacity Training* program will provide management capacity building support for the World Heritage site nomination process for sites not yet listed in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape. These sites may be using serial and/or transboundary nomination strategies and must meet minimum management requirements prior to nomination eligibility. The *MPA Management Capacity Training* program will provide support in meeting the management requirements and working together with all five sites in developing coordinated and cooperative management of the region.

